

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FODAG

FOR SECRETARY BUTZ AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: 18TH FAO CONFERENCE - ELECTION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL

REF: (A) ROME 16087

(B) STATE 263956

1. IN FIRST SECRET BALLOT, 131 VOTES WERE CAST. 66 WERE NEEDED FOR ELECTION. SAOUMA WITH 62 VOTES CAME WITHIN 4 OF REQUIRED MAJORITY. HOPPER RECEIVED 28, AQUINO 24, OJALA 7, OKUNIEWSKI 7 AND SEY 3. AT END OF FIRST BALLOT OKUNIEWSKI ANNOUNCED HIS WITHDRAWAL, THROWING HIS SUPPORT TO SAOUMA AND STATED HOPE THAT HIS OTHER EE BLOC SUPPORTERS WOULD DO THE SAME.

2. AFTER 2 1/2 HOURS LUNCH BREAK, IT WAS CLEAR SEY ALSO WOULD WITHDRAW IN FAVOR OF SAOUMA. BEFORE PROCEEDING TO SECOND BALLOT EL SALVADOR WITHDREW IN FAVOR OF SAOUMA AND STATED IT WAS WITH VIEW TO SOLIDARITY AND UNANIMOUS DECISION IN CONFERENCE. GHANA THEN OFFICIALLY WITHDREW WITH SAME OBJECTIVE. NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWED WITH ITS WITHDRAWAL OF OJALA AND ULTIMATELY, AND WITH RELUCTANCE CANADA WITHDREW HOPPERS CANDIDACY IN  
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THE SPIRIT OF ACHIEVING A UNANIMOUS DECISION. HENCE,

FINAL BALLOT ( REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION) CONTAINED  
ONLY NAME OF SAOUMA. RESULTS WERE 121 VOTES FOR SAOUMA,  
4 AGAINST AND 7 ABSTENTIONS.

3. ANALYSIS: AS ANTICIPATED REF (A) FIRST BALLOT VOTING  
PATTERN WAS NO SURPRISE. SAOUMA VOTE REPRESENTED PROBABLE  
CROSS SECTION OF SUPPORT FROM ALL REGIONS INCLUDING SOME  
FROM WEO'S. AQUINO VOTE SEEMED TO EVIDENCE LACK OF ABILITY  
GAIN SUPPORT BEYOND LA REGION. HOPPER VOTE ABOUT AS PRE-  
DICTED REF (A), HOWEVER LIKE THAT OF AQUINO, SOMEWHAT LESS  
THAN EACH CANDIDATE HAD EXPECTED. WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITH-  
DRAWAL POLISH CANDIDATE IT WAS CLEAR THAT SAOUMA WOULD  
HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN ON SECOND BALLOT.  
HAVING RECEIVED 62 VOTES ON FIRST BALLOT SAOUMA NEEDED ONLY  
4 OF 69 VOTES WHICH WERE CAST FOR ALL OTHER CANDIDATES. HAD  
RELATIVE STRENGTH BEEN DIFFERENT IT MAY HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR  
HOPPER AND QUINO TO REACH SOME ACCORD BUT THEIR COMBINED VOTES  
WERE 10 VOTES SHORT OF SAOUMA ON FIRST BALLOT. AFTER POLAND  
WITHDREW IN FAVOR OF SAOUMA IT BECAME VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR EITHER HOPPER OR AQUINO TO WIN EVEN IF ONE OR THE OTHER  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW SOME OF THE SAOUMA FIRST BALLOT SUPPORT.  
BANDWAGON APPEARED INEVITABLE AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT FIRST BALLOT  
RESULTS.

4. U.S. POSITION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF (B), DELEGATION  
HAD INFORMED HOPPER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS  
OF U.S. SUPPORT ON FIRST BALLOT. NO COMMITMENT WAS STATED,  
OR REQUESTED, CONCERNING SUBSEQUENT BALLOTS.  
HOPPER DID ASK IF U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTACT A FEW  
COUNTRIES SELECTED BY CANADA TO INFORM THEM THAT "IF ELECTED  
DAVID HOPPER WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE OF THE  
UNITED STATES". HE DID NOT REQUEST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S.  
SUPPORT. SUBSEQUENTLY CANADA ASKED U.S. SPEAK ONLY TO SOUTH  
KOREA AND WE COMPLIED. U.S. DEL MADE CLEAR TO HOPPER AND  
SUBSEQUENTLY TO AQUINO AND SAOUMA (WHO WERE CONFIDENTIALLY  
ADVISED WE WOULD SUPPORT HOPPER ON THE FIRST BALLOT) THAT U.S.  
WOULD MAINTAIN PUBLIC POSITION THAT SINCE ELECTION WAS BY  
SECRET BALLOT, U.S. WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A  
CANDIDATE. THIS POSITION WAS STRICTLY OBSERVED THROUGHOUT  
ELECTION PROCESS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INFORMING AUSTRALIA OF  
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OUR POSITION IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE SECOND BALLOT. THIS  
EXCEPTION WAS BECAUSE OF LONG STANDING AUSTRALIAN REQUEST FOR  
CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWING FIRST BALLOT.  
AUSTRALIA INITIATED CONSULTATION BY INFORMING U.S. OF ITS  
DECISION TO SUPPORT SAOUMA ON SECOND BALLOT AND INFORM  
SAOUMA AND HOPPER OF THIS DECISION.

5. IN ACCORDANCE ANALYSIS PARA. 3 ABOVE USDEL DETERMINED

HOPPER HAD NO REAL CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. ACCORDINGLY WE INFORMED, ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, SAOUMA, AQUINO AND HOPPER THAT US WOULD CAST VOTE FOR SAOUMA IN SECOND BALLOT. SAOUMA WAS EXCEEDINGLY PLEASED TO LEARN OF U.S. DECISION AND PLEDGED TO SERVE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBER STATES IN FAO. AQUINO WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT SURPRISED AND STATED GRATITUDE FOR U.S. FRANKNESS THROUGHOUT ELECTION. IN RESPONSE TO AQUINO QUERY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD RELEASE LA DELEGATIONS, HE WAS ADVISED IT WAS A SECRET BALLOT IN WHICH SOVEREIGN STATES SHOULD REACH DECISIONS THEMSELVES.

6. HOPPER RECEIVED U.S. DECISION WITH CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS AND REJECTED U.S. ARGUMENT THAT SINCE THE FINAL OUTCOME WAS CLEAR NATIONS SHOULD PULL TOGETHER TO HELP PRESERVE STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION. HE SAID HE FELT UNDERCUT BY THE U.S. BUT OFFERED NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHY HE FELT WHAT APPEARED TO BE CLEAR DECISION FOR SAOUMA WOULD BE REVERSED IN SUBSEQUENT BALLOTING. DECISION TO INFORM HOPPER ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WAS A CLOSE CALL BUT EVASIVE OR NON-COMMITTAL COMMENTS WITH CANADA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN CONFORMITY WITH THE FORTHRIGHT, HONEST MANNER IN WHICH ALL EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WERE HANDLED. WE COULD NOT CONSIDER MISLEADING ACTION WITH SUCH A CLOSE ALLY SINCE INEVITABLE DISCLOSURE OF U.S. SECOND BALLOT SUPPORT FOR SAOUMA WOULD DAMAGE U.S. CREDIBILITY.

7. PLEASE REPEAT OTHER MISSIONS IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE. CALINGAERT

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